

We claim:

1. A composition comprising 40 to 95 weight percent of a high molecular weight, water soluble polymer having a cloud point from about 20 to about 90° C, 5 to 25 weight percent carrageenan, and 0.5 to 5 weight percent gellan gum.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the high molecular weight, water soluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, and mixtures thereof.

3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the high molecular weight, water soluble polymer comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose having a viscosity from about 80 to about 120,000 mPa s in 2% aqueous solution.

4. The composition of claim 1, further comprising an inorganic cation.

5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the inorganic cation is selected from the group consisting of potassium cations, calcium cations, and mixtures thereof.

6. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a lubricant.

7. The composition of claim 1, wherein the lubricant is glyceryl monostearate.

8. The composition of claim 1 in solid form and substantially free of pores having a diameter of 0.5 to 5.0 microns.

9. A dosage form comprising a shell that comprises the composition of claim 1.

10. A dosage form comprising a shell portion that comprises the composition of claim 1.

11. A dosage form comprising a core that comprises the composition of claim 1.

5 12. A dosage form comprising a core portion that comprises the composition of claim 1.

13. A dosage form comprising the composition of claim 1 and an active ingredient, wherein said active ingredient is released from the dosage form in a burst  
10 release fashion.

14. A composition consisting essentially of:

a) 40 to 95 weight percent of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose having a viscosity from about 80 to about 120,000 mPa s in 2% aqueous solution;

15 b) 5 to 25 weight percent carrageenan,

c) 0.5 to 5 weight percent gellan gum;

d) up to 10 weight percent potassium chloride; and

e) 5 to 20 weight percent of glyceryl monostearate.

20 15. An aqueous dispersion comprising:

a) 8 to 20 weight percent of a high molecular weight, water soluble polymer having a cloud point from about 20 to about 90° C;

b) 1 to 3 weight percent carrageenan;

c) 0.2 to 1 weight percent gellan gum; and

25 d) about 80 weight percent water.

16. An aqueous dispersion consisting essentially of:

a) 8 to 20 weight percent of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose having a viscosity from about 80 to about 120,000 mPa s in 2% aqueous solution;

30 b) 1 to 3 weight percent carrageenan;

c) 0.2 to 1 weight percent gellan gum;

d) up to 2 weight percent of potassium chloride;

e) 1 to 5 weight percent of glyceryl monostearate; and

f) about 80 weight percent water.

17. A composition comprising 40 to 95 weight percent of a high molecular weight, water soluble polymer having a cloud point from about 20 to about 90° C, 5 to 40 weight percent one or more carrageenans, and 0.5 to 30 weight percent lubricant.

18. The composition of claim 17, wherein the high molecular weight, water soluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, and mixtures thereof.

19. The composition of claim 18, wherein the high molecular weight, water soluble polymer comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose having a viscosity from about 80 to about 120,000 mPa s in 2% aqueous solution.

20. The composition of claim 17, further comprising an inorganic cation.

21. The composition of claim 17, wherein the inorganic cation is selected from the group consisting of potassium cations, calcium cations, and mixtures thereof.

22. The composition of claim 17, wherein the lubricant is glyceryl monostearate.

23. The composition of claim 17 in solid form and substantially free of pores having a diameter of 0.5 to 5.0 microns.

24. A dosage form comprising a shell that comprises the composition of claim 17.

25. A dosage form comprising a shell portion that comprises the composition of claim 17.

26. A dosage form comprising a core that comprises the composition of claim 17.

27. A dosage form comprising a core portion that comprises the composition of claim 17.

28. A dosage form comprising the composition of claim 17 and an active ingredient, wherein said active ingredient is released from the dosage form in a burst release fashion.

29. A composition consisting essentially of:

- a) 40 to 95 weight percent of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose having a viscosity from about 80 to about 120,000 mPa s in 2% aqueous solution;
- b) 5 to 40 weight percent one or more carrageenans,
- c) up to 10 weight percent potassium chloride; and
- d) 5 to 40 weight percent of glyceryl monostearate.

30. An aqueous dispersion comprising:

- a) 8 to 20 weight percent of a high molecular weight, water soluble polymer having a cloud point from about 20 to about 90° C;
- b) 1 to 5 weight percent one or more carrageenans;
- c) 0.1 to 6 weight percent glyceryl monostearate and
- d) about 80 weight percent water.

31. An aqueous dispersion consisting essentially of:

- a) 8 to 20 weight percent of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose having a viscosity from about 80 to about 120,000 mPa s in 2% aqueous solution;
- b) 1 to 5 weight percent one or more carrageenans;
- c) up to 2 weight percent of potassium chloride;
- d) 0.1 to 6 weight percent of glyceryl monostearate; and
- e) about 80 weight percent water